

Clendenin Bird & Company

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

1300 Tenth Street, Suite C
Modesto, California 95354
Telephone (209) 526-3091 Facsimile (209) 526-2287

Gerald L. Clendenin, CPA
Constance Hillas Bird, CPA
Albert A. Avila, CPA
James O. Armstrong, CPA

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Patricia A. Rettig, CPA
Claire L. Schendel, CPA
Wendy L. Prather, CPA

**Renata Hesse, Trial Attorney
Antitrust Division, Department of Justice
601 D Street NW, Ste. 1200
Washington, DC 20530**

**VIA FACSIMILE
(202) 616-9937
HARD COPY TO FOLLOW
VIA U.S. MAIL**

Dear Ms. Hesse:

I am writing this letter to the court to support the settlement that is proposed in the case of US v. Microsoft. From what I understand, nine of the states and the federal government have come to an agreement and the court is asking for public comment as to whether that agreement should be accepted.

I have read the arguments made by both sides on this case—by Microsoft and by the competitors who called for the suit in the first place. These competitors of Microsoft have made the argument that Microsoft's anticompetitive actions have brought harm to the technology industry. That argument is no longer valid.

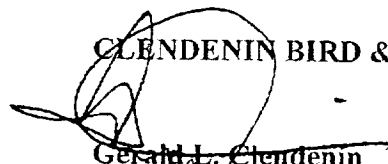
Since the day this case against Microsoft first began, the technology industry went into a steady decline. You don't need to look any further than the NASDAQ—our strongest tech market indicator—over the last three years. Those competitors and their allies who are arguing to the court that a settlement will harm the technology industry are totally wrong.

The original goals of this case may have been justified. I don't believe that question is still relevant. I believe the relevant question now is "is the settlement fair and is it time to end this case?" To those questions, I think I speak for the majority of Americans by telling the court that the answer is a resounding "yes."

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

CLENDENIN BIRD & COMPANY



Gerald L. Clendenin
Certified Public Accountant

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